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NRO History file



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11 OCT 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

**SUBJECT: Assignment of Staff Responsibilities
for Support to DCI in the National
Reconnaissance Program**

1. This memorandum transmits to the Director of Central Intelligence, with a recommendation for approval, a proposed assignment of staff responsibilities both within the CIA and to D/DCI/NIFE for support to the DCI on matters pertaining to the National Reconnaissance Program (NRP). The recommendation is contained in paragraph 3.

2. The attached paper, describing the assignment of staff responsibilities in the NRP, is submitted in accordance with our prior discussion and your request. The attached document neither establishes new policies on this matter nor changes any current points of responsibility within the Agency on NRP matters. It does properly organize and relate them in their entirety, establishes more logical and efficient channels of communication, and precludes the possibility that, by oversight, certain essential matters are not properly addressed.

NRO review(s) completed.



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3. It is recommended that the attachment, subsequent to the approval of the DCI, be forwarded by memorandum to the D/DCI/NIFE and the four Deputy Directors for implementation. The further dissemination of the document within Directorates should be left to the discretion of the Deputy Directors because of the Codeword clearances involved.

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CONCUR:

ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

Deputy Director for Intelligence

Date

/s/ Thomas A. Karamessines
for

12 OCT 1965

Deputy Director for Plans

Date

SIGNED R. L. Bannerman
Deputy Director for Support

12 OCT 1965

Date

(See attached memo dtd
12 Oct 65 to DD/S fr
A-D/S, same subj)

Executive Director-Comptroller

Date

/s/ John T. Bross
D/DCI/NIFE

12 OCT 1965

Date

The recommendation contained in
paragraph 3 is approved:

Director of Central Intelligence

Date

Attachment:



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Distribution Sheet -

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EO/DD/S&T: (11 Oct 68)

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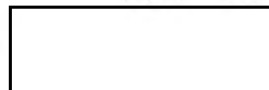
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**ASSIGNMENT OF STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES AND SUPPORT
FOR DCI IN THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM**

1. On 13 August 1965 Mr. Vance and I concluded a new Agreement to guide the conduct of our National Reconnaissance Program. It is essential that all components of CIA understand and support this Agreement. The first step in implementing this new program is to fix clearly the responsibilities within CIA for implementing this Agreement, and this directive makes clear the responsibilities of various components.

2. The new NRO Agreement assigns the following specific responsibilities to the DCI.

a. Establish the collection priorities and requirements for the targeting of NRP operations and frequency of collection coverage

b. Review the results obtained by the NRP and recommend, if appropriate, steps for improving such results

c. Sit as a member of the Executive Committee.

d. Review and approve the NRP budget each year.

e. Provide security policy guidance to maintain a uniform



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system in the whole NRP area.

3. An NRP Executive Committee is established to guide the NRO and participate in the formulation of the NRP. As a member of this Committee, the DCI must participate in the following functions prescribed for the Executive Committee:

- a. Recommend to the Secretary of Defense an appropriate level of effort for the NRP in response to reconnaissance requirements provided by USIB and in the light of technical capabilities and fiscal limitations.
- b. Approve or modify the consolidated National Reconnaissance Program and its budget.
- c. Approve the allocation of responsibility and the corresponding funds for research and exploratory development for new systems. Funds shall be adequate to ensure that a vigorous research and exploratory development effort is achieved and maintained by the Department of Defense and CIA to design and construct new sensors to meet intelligence requirements aimed at the acquisition of intelligence data. This effort shall be carried out by both CIA and DOD.
- d. Approve the allocation of development responsibilities and the corresponding funds for specific reconnaissance programs with a view to ensuring that the development, testing and production of

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new systems is accomplished with maximum efficiency by the component of the Government best equipped with facilities, experience and technical competence to undertake the assignment. It will also establish guidelines for collaboration between departments and for mutual support where appropriate. Assignment of responsibility for engineering development of sensor subsystems will be made to either the CIA or DOD components in accordance with the above criteria. The engineering development of all other subsystems, including spacecraft, reentry vehicles, boosters and booster interface subsystems shall in general be assigned to an Air Force component, recognizing however, that sensors, spacecraft and reentry vehicles are integral components of a system, the development of which must proceed on a fully coordinated basis, with a view to ensuring optimum system development in support of intelligence requirements for overhead reconnaissance. To optimize the primary objective of systems development, design requirement of the sensors will be given priority in their integration within the spacecraft and reentry vehicles.

e. Assign operational responsibility for various types of manned overflight missions to CIA or DOD subject to the concurrence of the JCS Committee.

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f. Periodically review the essential features of the major program elements of the NRP.

4. The NRO Agreement further specifies that the National Reconnaissance Program shall be responsive directly and solely to the intelligence collection requirements and priorities established by the United States Intelligence Board. Targeting requirements and priorities and desired frequency of coverage of both satellite and manned aircraft missions over denied areas shall continue to be the responsibility of USIB, subject to the operational approval of the JCS Committee.

5. I shall look to the DD/S&T as the principal officer for the National Reconnaissance Program. The DD/S&T will represent the Agency in all policy considerations relating to the NRP, and provide staff support to me in matters pertaining to the NRP both as LCI and as a member of the Executive Committee. Specifically, DD/S&T in this role will be responsible for providing staff support to me bearing on:

a. Allocation of responsibility and funds for research and exploratory development for new systems.

b. Allocation of development responsibilities and funds for specific reconnaissance programs.

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c. Assignment of operational responsibilities for manned overflight missions.

d. Periodic reviews of the NRP.

e. Because the level of effort established for the NRP and its budget are a major element of the national intelligence program, I will look to the D/DCI/NIPE and to DD/S&T for staff support in these areas and will expect them to coordinate their recommendations with me.

7. COMOR will be responsible to USIB recommending collection priorities and requirements for the targeting of NRP operations and the frequency of collection coverage desired. Their recommendations will be transmitted directly to the NRO after approval by USIB, or in accordance with authority delegated to COMOR by USIB.

8. The CIA Office of Security will be responsible for establishing security policy for the NRP and for supporting the NRO as required. The Office of Security will continue to coordinate all NRO security matters with the DD/S&T.

9. I shall continue to delegate my authority for approval of security clearances involving the NRP to the DD/S&T.

10. The responsibility for identifying future collection needs

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will continue to rest with COMOR and USIB. However, I shall look to DD/S&T for staff advice on the scientific and technical feasibility of satisfying these needs so that timely decisions on research and exploratory programs can be adopted in the Executive Committee.

11. The responsibility for determining how film and magnetic tape reconnaissance records ought to be processed and reported is not addressed in the present agreement. For the time being, I will expect DD/S&T to develop the CIA position on such matters in coordination with the Chairman of COMOR and with the advice of the DDI and NPIC.

12. There is a close and valuable interaction between NPIC and NRO at all levels. However, because NPIC actions and positions on reconnaissance are often represented as CIA or DCI positions, it is essential that all substantive and policy exchanges between NPIC and NRO be coordinated with DD/S&T.

13. The DD/S&T will receive all correspondence bearing on the NRP and will staff the preparation of appropriate answering correspondence, in coordination with other components involved. All initiatives or redirection efforts affecting the NRP will be coordinated with the DD/S&T before presentation to me or outside the Agency.

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14. All the foregoing is concerned with the organization and assignment of responsibility for staff support for the Director of Central Intelligence in the National Reconnaissance Program.

15. The Central Intelligence Agency will continue as a major participant in the activities of the National Reconnaissance Office. To provide an arrangement similar to that for staff support to the DCI in the NRP, it is essential that a single point of contact for NRO programs be established within the Agency, and a Director of CIA Reconnaissance Programs, Mr. Sheldon, has been named to initially satisfy this need. He will report to the DD/S&T and have over-all responsibility for all CIA programs supported by the NRO as well as providing a single focal point of contact between CIA and the NRO. Individual offices of the CIA in their day-to-day relationship with the NRO will keep the Director of Reconnaissance informed of pertinent activities and events occurring in their programs. The Director of CIA Reconnaissance activities will, in turn, keep the DCI, DDCI, and the DD/S&T informed of all NRO related CIA activities.

W. F. Raborn
Director

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